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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for splicing MPEG-2 encoded transport streams to prevent decoder buffer-underflow. Emulation of the transport stream prior to transmission determines whether a decoder underflow would occur after a splice proposed at a predetermined time. When a potential underflow is determined for a decoder buffer, null packets are deleted prior to the time proposed for transmission for the splice, and an earlier splice time is recomputed. A time delay is added to presentation time stamp and the decoding time stamp. A relationship between the respective components involved is described to calculate the null packets to be deleted as well as to calculate the time delay to be added to a presentation time stamp and to a decoding time stamp, whereby decoder buffer underflow is prevented.